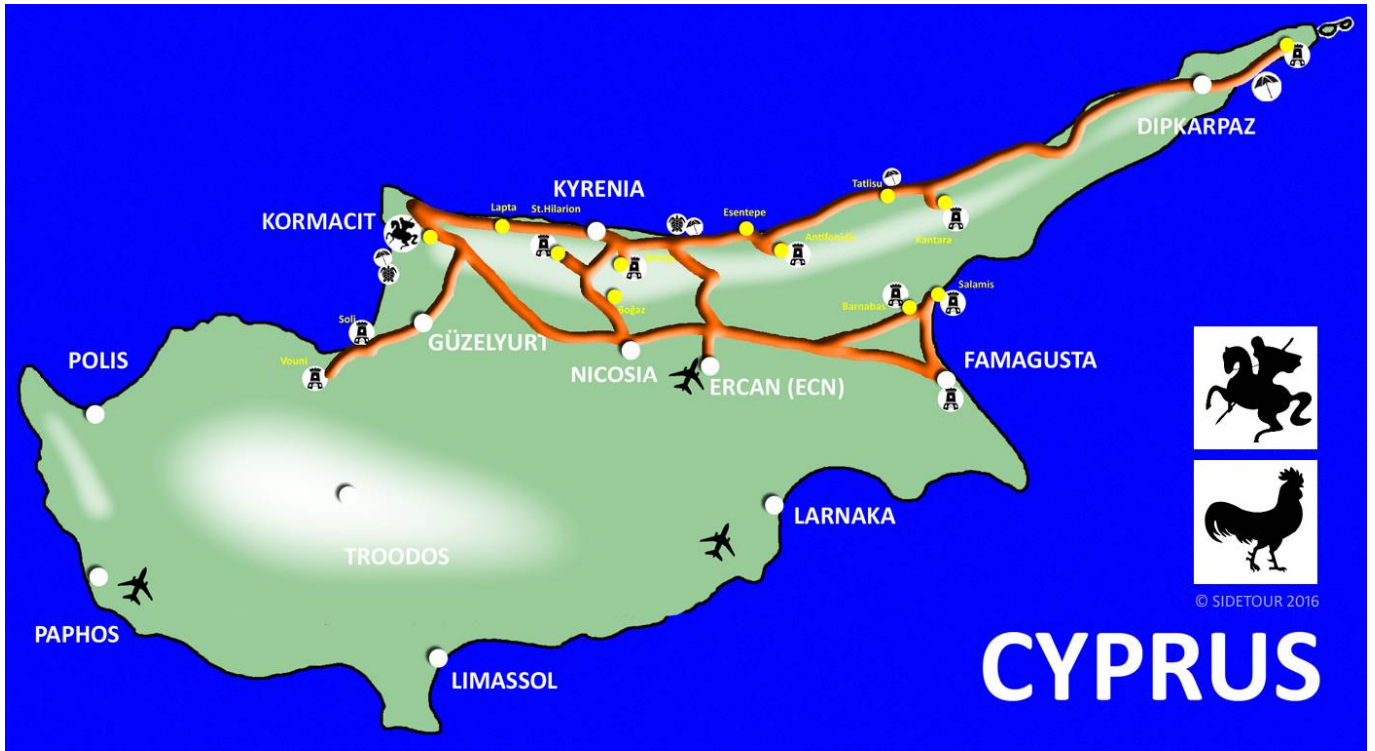


# CULTURE IN NORTHERN CYPRUS

## 7 nights / 8 days REF: CULTURE-N-7-2015



### DAY 1: FLIGHT TO CYPRUS Ercan (ECN) or Larnaca (LCA) AIRPORT AND TRANSFER TO KYRENIA

Our guide welcomes you at ERCAN (ECN) or LARNACA (LCA) airport. Transfer to Kyrenia. Overnight at Kyrenia.

### DAY 2: KYRENIA HIGHLIGHTS AND BOAT TOUR

In Kyrenia we visit the impressive Kyrenia Castle, a former Crusader fortification, rebuilt by the Venetians. We discover its showrooms of medieval practices and its ship wreck museum. Then we go on board of our boat Sabrina. This light cruise takes us along the shore of the Besparmak Mountains with stunning views of nature and city from the sea. We have time for a long swimming break and a nice lunch before we head back to the harbour. After we leave the boat we visit the old town of Kyrenia and stroll along shops with special Cypriot specialities such as Turkish delights, carved wooden boxes, etc. Overnight in Kyrenia



### DAY 3: BELLAPAIS - ST HILARION – NICOSIA

After breakfast we visit the Bellapais Monastery, one of the most beautiful buildings from Lusignan period in Cyprus. Then we continue to St Hilarion Castle, another masterpiece of Gothic architecture. With stunning views overlooking the northern coastline we say farewell to Kyrenia and continue to Nicosia, the last divided capital of Europe. On a walking city tour we visit the Gothic style Selimiye mosque, the Büyük Han (Great Inn) and the Bedestan. Lunch will be taken at Nicosia in a local restaurant. After tour we drive back to Kyrenia. Overnight in Kyrenia.



### DAY 4: FAMAGUSTA TOUR

After breakfast we drive to Famagusta. Our first station is the “ghost city” of Varoscha, one of the visible remains of the war in 1974. Through the Venetian City Walls we drive into the old part of Famagusta. The Lala Mustafa Pascha mosque (former Saint Nicolas Cathedral) is one of the highlights during our walking city tour combining Crusader and Venetian heritage. After some free time in the city we continue to the Ruins of Salamis, where we have our lunch and a short swimming break. Salamis was also the birthplace of Saint Barnabas, who evangelized Cyprus together with Saint Paul. The Church of Saint Barnabas with its archaeological and icon museum is the last cultural spot of today’s program. After tour we drive back to Kyrenia. Overnight in Kyrenia.



### DAY 5: KARPAZ PENINSULA TOUR

After breakfast we drive to Karpaz Peninsula. Driving along the northern coastal road, our first stop will be at the Byzantine church of **Panagia Pergaminiotissa**. The church is a renovated 12th century building that hosts a nature exhibition whereas the beautiful garden is used for displaying **miniature versions** of the most important Cyprus buildings like the gothic style cathedral in Nicosia. Our next visit will be at **Ayios Thyrsos** church where Orthodox Christians pray for relief of illnesses. Continuing our drive to the far end of the peninsula we have a coffee break at **Dipkarpaz village** and visit the mosque. **Apostolos Andreas Monastery** (an important pilgrim destination for orthodox Christians, in renovation) and a swimming break at the **Golden Beach** (here you will have time for an optional lunch) are the next highlights of this wonderful day at Cyprus’ eastern end. After tour we drive back to Kyrenia. Overnight in Kyrenia.







**DAY 6: "THE WILD WEST" OF NORTHERN CYPRUS – CULTURAL TOUR**

After a breakfast we head for Güzelyurt, where we visit the Monastery of Saint Mamas, the patron saint of the tax evaders and the nearby archaeological museum with the "Golden Leaves". On the way we stop to visit an orange orchard to have a glass of fresh juice. In Soli we will visit the ruins of the ancient Byzantine church of Saint Auxibius and the Greek theatre. For lunch we continue to the city of Lefke, which was one of the centres of copper mining for more than 3000 years. In Lefke we will have our lunch at a traditional restaurant (alternatively picknick in Vouni). The last sightseeing spot on the west coast is Vouni Palace, a former Persian military camp with marvellous views to the Troodos Mountains and the western coastline before we turn back and visit the unique Maronite village of Kormacit. In this day we have also the opportunity to meet popular Maronite personalities, who will welcome us and give us an exclusive insight in their culture and history. In Kormacit we will visit the Saint George Church and the Ethnographic Museum. After tour we drive back to Kyrenia. Overnight in Kyrenia.



**DAY 7: FREE TIME - OPTIONAL ANTIFONITIS WALKING TOUR**

After breakfast we drive to to the Five Finger Mountains (in Turkish: Besparmak), where we enjoy an easy walk to the Monastery of Antifonitis (alt. Antiphonitis). Antifonitis is famous for its colourful frescos dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. After a picnic we drive towards back to Kyrenia. Overnight in Kyrenia.



**SAT – DAY 8: DEPARTURE**

Check-out and transfer from Kyrenia Hotel to ERCAN or LARNACA airport.

According to the flight time, we have free time at leisure and then we bring you to the airport, where we have to say good bye and güle güle!

**Included Services in BASIC PACKAGE:**

- ERCAN/LARNACA Return Airport Transfers
- All transfers as per mentioned in the itinerary
- 7 Night Accommodation at DOME HOTEL 4\*
- Tours that mentioned above itinerary
- Entrance to all sites mentioned in the itinerary
- 7 breakfast at Dome Hotel
- 5 lunches (during tours)

**Not included services:**

- Sea view supplement for DOME Hotel: € 105,-- per room for 7 nights
- SGL Supplement: € 210,-- for Dome Hotel
- Optional Antifonitis Walking Tour
- Personal expenses, drinks during lunches and dinners, tips.

